

MEETING OF

THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, March 8, 2006, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	W. Allen Jones, Chair of the Governor's Council on Forestry
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Kevin Coyle (representing John Hughes, Secretary of DNREC)
Lyn Davenport, Secretary	Ann Visalli Deputy State Treasurer (Representing Jack Markell, State
Michael T. Scuse Secretary of Agriculture	Treasurer)

Absent: Dennis Clay, Alden Hopkins, and Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McGrath, Milton Melendez, Howard Mesick, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, Phil Tuthill, and Austin Short.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m. with prayer.

I. Progress Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that we have 624 farms, with 141,525 acres in preservation districts, with 413 farms in agricultural easements and 28 farms pending to enter agricultural easements, totaling 79,955 acres for a cost of \$103,631,538.00. We currently have 71 farms totaling 10,979 acres, for purchase of development rights round 11, with a total estimated cost of \$152,225,124.00.

II. Expansion Eligibility/Final Approval

1. Kauffman Expansion of the W.F. Hanson District, ID#K-06-01-165B After discussion, **Lyn Davenport moved to accept for final approval the Kauffman Expansion of the W. F. Hanson District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. Towle Expansion of the Whitby Farms, LP District, ID#K-06-02-067G. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Towle Expansion of the Whitby Farms District, seconded by Lyn Davenport. Motion unanimously approved.**

At this point in the meeting discussion followed concerning impervious surface and Federal funding of farmland preservation.

III. Public Comments – Mr. Phil Tuthill commented on an article in the Delmarva Farmer about Chairman Garey making first place in no-till, and the article featuring comments from Secretary Scuse concerning the Coastal Zone Act.

IV. Minutes – Chairman Garey asked if there were additions or corrections to the February 8, 2006 minutes. Receiving no additions or corrections to the minutes, **William Vanderwende moved the minutes be approved, seconded by Allen Jones. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Financial Highlights

Cathy Mesick informed the Foundation Board that we had, as of February 28, 2006, \$11,648.88 in the Foundation's checking account. The Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account had a balance of \$313,012.34. There was no revenue for the month of February. Expenditures for the month of February totaled \$20,564.96. After discussion, **Lyn Davenport moved to accept the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

VII. Executive Session – No Executive Session was necessary.

At this time Mike McGrath introduced Scott Blaier to the Board. Mr. Blaier is the new Planner IV who will be working with the Planning Section and with Farmland Preservation.

VIII. Other Business

1. Murderkill River Estate Expansion of the Miller District, ID#K-98-12-005A – Easement Request for Utility Pipeline.

This will not be presented today, as the necessary paperwork has not been completed.

2. Update on Forest Easement Program.

Austin Short presented the FEP, the Forest Easement Program. Mike Parkowski informed the Board that this program is different from the current farmland preservation program. And there may be questions concerning the scoring system for the FEP. Discussion followed concerning the scoring system and how it would be administered.

Mike McGrath noted that the appraisals will be more expensive and there will be more landowners getting competing appraisals. The tie breaker will be the LESA score then the size of the parcel. The people who are members of the Delaware Forestry Association and those who are on the list to receive information concerning FEP should be invited to the public hearing. We would like everything finished by July 1st. A workshop is to be held after the April Foundation meeting and the public hearing to be held in May.

The board came to a consensus after discussion and told the staff to go forward with the process for the FEP.

IX. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on April 12, 2006 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Davenport
Secretary